



Members of the House Committee on Taxation
Kansas State Capitol
Room 346-S
Topeka, Kansas
Re: Testimony in Support of the Endow Kansas Tax Credit Act (HB 2208)

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah Meitner, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Heartland Community Foundation in Hays, which works to strengthen the communities of Ellis, Rooks, and Trego counties through charitable giving and permanent endowments. Our foundation partners with donors who want to give back to their hometowns and ensures their generosity continues to make an impact for generations. By building unrestricted endowments, we provide long-term, flexible funding to address ever-changing community needs.

Over the years, the Heartland Community Foundation has funded a wide range of projects that strengthen the places we call home—providing lifesaving equipment for volunteer fire departments, creating accessible playgrounds for children with disabilities, offering opportunities for STEM instruction for youth, supporting local food pantries, and so much more. Just this past year, our unrestricted grant dollars helped go toward a community pickleball court in Plainville, provided funding for medical equipment at a new cold weather shelter in Ellis County, and supported equipment upgrades at a mental health facility that doubles as a coffee shop in WaKeeney. These are the types of investments that make our communities stronger, and they are only possible because of endowment funds that provide sustainable, long-term support.

The Endow Kansas Tax Credit Act is a proven strategy that would encourage philanthropy and help keep charitable dollars in Kansas. By providing a tax incentive for gifts to unrestricted and field-of-interest endowments, this bill will help secure the future of community foundations like ours, ensuring that local dollars stay local. We have seen how similar tax credits have driven charitable giving in other states, and we cannot afford to miss this opportunity to harness the transfer of wealth happening in Kansas. Nearly \$2.7 billion is expected to transfer in my area—Ellis, Rooks, and Trego counties—by 2040. We are actively engaging our community in discussions about how to preserve even a small fraction of that wealth for the benefit of future generations. For many donors, a tax credit could be the motivation they need to take action, ensuring these resources remain in Kansas rather than leaving our communities.

I strongly urge you to support the Endow Kansas Tax Credit Act (HB 2208). This legislation will empower donors, strengthen rural and urban communities alike, and create a lasting impact for generations.

Sincerely,

Sarah Meitner
Executive Director, Heartland Community Foundation



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